47

The Spectrum Byte

A JIMCOL PUBLICATION

ONLY 30p

ALL MONEY GOES TO CANCER RESEARCH

PING PONG REVIEW INSIDE

- NEWS
- REVIEWS
- CHARTS
- TIPS
- POKES

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HEAVY ON THE MAGICK

Editorial Page

So here it is, issue one of "THE SPECTRUM BYTE".

This magazine's staff hope to give a local and independant view of the Sinclair Spectrum scene.

This issue is at present, approximately fourteen pages long, but with a little co-operation from you, the reader, the magazine could be vastly expanded. This could be done by our readers writing in with letters, articles or drawings. The list is endless !

At present, our policy states that any profit made through the sales of the magazine will be sent to a charity. This is another chance for the reader to participate. We would like to hear from you on which charity you think the money should go to.

THIS ISSUE

In this issue, there is some very useful playing tips, software charts galore, reviews, reviews and more reviews, some very good editorial pieces and much, much more.

Some reviews might be slightly outdated but there is a perfectly good reason for this.
We cannot afford to purchase every game that is released on the market because we do not have enough money !
This is where the 'Big Name' Software Houses could help out.
To provide more knowledge to the reader on which game to buy is this magazine's job, (among others).
And the big software houses should come to the aid of this.

RATINGS

Throughout the magazine, you will find lots of reviews with a ratings system at the bottom.
There are four different facets of the game that attribute to the overall rating of the game.
THEY ARE -

GRAPHICS : This category is all about how good a game's graphics are.

PLAYABILITY : This category is about playing the game e.g. is it easy to master?

VALUE : This category is about value for money. If a game costs £1.99 and it is of a high quality, then it will get a high rating in this category.

ADDICTIVENESS : This category is about how long a game will keep you amused.

OVERALL : This category is the over all percentage that the game has achieved. this is not necessarily the averages of all the other ratings.

I hope that this has given you a good insight of the ratings system.
I hope you enjoy everything inside this magazine and also I hope it makes up your mind on which game to purchase.

Colin Hardie

COLIN HARDIE (EDITOR)

CYBERUN

PRODUCER : Ultimate
PRICE : £9.95 , (The price includes a Tape Head Cleaner)

Before I give you a brief summary of the plot of the game, let me say that Ultimate have finally managed to take a welcome departure from their usual isometric three-D filmation technique that was used in GUNFRIGHT, KNIGHTLORE, ALIEN 8 and is going to be used in PENTAGRAM.

RIGHT, I will try to explain this weird and wonderful plot to the best of my capabilities. Far away in space is a cluster of planets called the Zebarema. To cut things short, it is not a very nice place to spend your holidays.Noone would even dream of going there if it was'nt for Cybernite. Cybernite isthe elemental key to Galactic domination, so you can imagine that a lot of people would like to get their hands on it. Therefore you must construct your super dooper spaceship and collect all the cybernite before the baddies do.

CRITICISM

As I have said before, I was greatly relieved when Cyberun loaded up and it was not a usual filmation game.
You start of with just the basic,slow ship and you can find both a horizontal and vertical rocket boosters very close at hand.These enable faster travel.
You must find other vital pieces of the ship's equipment, these include Heatseeking missiles,radars,lanky legs and many other useful pieces of equipment.
This game has a massive, scrolling playing area ,it also has a lot of depth.
I do not know ifit is just my hearing, but the tune sounds just like all the previous Ultimate releases.
The game is quite difficult to get started with and I never really felt any sense of achievement at any time while playing.

RATINGS

GRAPHICS 92% VALUE 92%
PLAYABILITY 79% ADDICTIVENESS 93%
OVERALL 86%

SAMANTHA FOX STRIP POKER

Producer : Martech
Price : £ 8.95

" Page 3 girl Sam Fox hosts poker and a seven card stud game, that was so intelligent that it took eighteen months to write. It features 'state ofthe art' pictures and is a high quality poker game. But she's no pushover !"
Anyway, thats what the sales guff has to say about it. But let me say it has a few lies, (which I will explain later) and also, a few truths.

The game that I am going to concentrate on is side one-the normal 'strip' poker game. She starts off by being suitably attired in scarves,hats,glasses etc. And you must play poker until she has only zero points and then Samantha reveals her biggest asset-(NOT HER BRAIN OR HER VOICE BY THE WAY).
You really must know how to play poker.

CRITICISM

This game is supposed to boast video digitised pictures. Well they look quite normal to me. Maybe these pictures were in fashion 18 months ago but I am afraid they seem to be very overrated.
As I said earlier, a massive lie on Martech's part is claiming that Sam Fox Is actually quite intelligent.
Well this I find hard to believe, I have seen her on a number of chat shows and pretty she may be, Intelligent she is not !
On the music front, there is a good rendition of "THE ENTERTAINER", which in my view is the best thing in the whole game.

RATINGS

GRAPHICS 78% VALUE 75%
playability 88% addictiveness 75 %
OVERALL 76 %

DO NOT LOOK AT THIS UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE THE QUIZ ON P.11

QUIZ ANSWERS :1.WILLY OUT OF MANIC MINER. 2.JENNY BEATTY. 3.Japan Capsule Computers 4.Jon Ritman.5.They ran out of memory. 6.Bernie Dugge. 7.5,000,000. 8.Westland Helicopters 9.Mike Richardson.10.FINDERS KEEPERS. 11. By dropping a teddy bear on her head. 12,500 screens

Byte Tipster

Have you ever been playing a game when you have lost all your lives and you think if you had a few more, you would complete the game ?

Well dont despair, the Tipster is here ! Coming up is a remedy to most of your common game playing problems. Listed below are a few pokes and solutions.

SABOTEUR

```
10 CLEAR 24200
20 LOAD "" SCREEN$
30 LOAD "" CODE
40 POKE 29894,0
50 RANDOMIZE USR 63972
```

COMMANDO

```
10 CLEAR 40000
20 LOAD "" CODE
30 POKE 65267,203
40 POKE 65379,68
50 POKE 65380,15
60 POKE 65382,108
70 POKE 65383,165
80 FOR N=65482 TO 65497:READ A:POKE N,A:
NEXT N
90 RANDOMIZE USR 65263
100 DATA 175,050,122,104,050
110 DATA 004,108,050,005,108
120 DATA 050,006,108,195,030
130 DATA 100
```

TANK DUEL

```
2 CLEAR 65505
5 PRINT AT 10,5;"START TANK DUEL TAPE"
10 FOR F=65506 TO 65535:READ A:POKE F,A:NE
20 DATA 221,33,0,64,17,54,191
30 DATA 62,255,55,205,86,5
40 DATA 48,-15,175,50,111,200
50 DATA 42,89,92,54,247
60 DATA 35,54,13,195,180,18
70 RANDOMIZE USR 65506
```

HINTS 'N' TIPS

3 'WEEKS' IN PARADISE

For infinite lives -
When there are stars above Wally's head, press keys "Symbol Shift","D" and"P".

That just about wraps it up folks, if you have any tips, then hand them in to James Donaldson or to myself,Colin Hardie.

SABOTEUR
INFINITE LIVES

THIS MONTH'S CHARITY IS ....

Cancer Research

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS ?

Cancer is not a single disease with a single cause. Doctors recognise some 200 types of cancer, each with different causes, affecting different parts of the body and responding differently to treatment.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED ?

50 years ago, the diagnosis of cancer was the equivalent of a sentence of death.

Today however, over 60 000 cancer sufferers are cured in the United Kingdom each year.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE ?

Cancer still accounts for 1 in 5 deaths in this country. Most of us will come into contact with cancer at some time in our lives.

Cancer causes more fear than any other disease and poses special problems for prevention and cure.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF RESEARCH ?

TO FIND CAUSES
TO IMPROVE EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS
TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT CANCER
TO FIND NEW TREATMENTS AND IMPROVE THOSE THAT ALREADY EXIST
TO DEVELOP CANCER EDUCATION

WHAT DOES THE CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN DO ?

Because there are so manydifferent types of cancer,each with its own problems,no single research group, however expert and well equipped, could try to solve them all.The Cancer Research Campaign spends over £17 million each year supporting over 550 projects ranging over the full spectrum of cancer research, in universities etc.,nationwide.

HOW IS IT DONE ?

Projects for which financial support is needed are considered by a Scientific Committee of eminent specialists in the various branches of cancer research. They recommend where the available funds would be best spent.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM ?

The campaign recieves no government aid and depends wholly on volutary contributions for it's income. Fund raising is supported by 1000 voluntary committees working in communities large and small all over the United Kingdom.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RUN THE CAMPAIGN ?

Inevitably, some money must be spent on administration; however the expenses of running the campaign are among the the lowest of all major charities. Ninety Two pence in every pound is spent on research.

HOW CAN YOU HELP ?

You have already helped a great deal by buying this magazine.

You can help even more.

You can send Cancer Research a donation, every gift, however humble is is always welcome. A gift to the campaign is a truly practical way of remembering a relative or friend who was a victim of cancer.

Please find below a form that you can fill in and with it send a cheque or Postal Order for any amount, be it big or small and send it to the following adress :-

MAJOR J R L HARMAN
Cancer Research Campaign
15 Lynedoch Street,
Glasgow G3 6EF

Please remember, every little helps. Cancer is a disease that a cure must be found for.

Donation

I enclose a donation of £ _____

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

WHICH GAME?

I wonder how many of you have saved up, bit by bit for a game that you have heard so much about and you think that it would be the game for you, and then found it to be really dissapointing and after a day it is put away in a cupboard never to be seen again ?

Well, hopefully all your problems will be solved for the time being anyway, once you have read this article. I am going to take a good look at the software market at present and try and help you decide which game will get your pennies. Also, as an extra, I will include something on [redacted] top games at budget prices.

For all those American Football fans out there, Ocean's SUPERBOWL might not turn out to be all you expect it to be. A similarity with ARGUS'S American Footie game is to be found, you have been warned ! At Boots in Sauchiehall St. There is a video machine with snippets of all pending releases, some screenshots and Software Charts. This can help you make up your mind, if not, then Mr. Failes, their Computer Consultant will almost certainly put you on the right track.

The Mastertronic M.A.D. games offer exceptional value at 2.99 and there are a few discount shops throughout Glasgow that can give even bigger reductions, as much as £4.00 on some top titles. As always, you must look for the best deals. For Amstrad users, Virgin Record Stores will let you try out games before buying. Other shops take note. I also hear that a Spectrum 'try-out' is on the way .

COMING SOON

This is the part of the magazine were we take a look at games that are just about to be released and are nearing completion.

Coming soon is Dynamite Dan II, "DR. BLITZEN & THE MINES OF ARCANUM". In the game, the hero Dan, fresh from stealing the plans of Dr. Blitzen, must get to his deserted island, locate the master discs, insert them into special jukeboxes and get the secret password. With over 200 screens and lots of little tunes, this could make 'BLITZEN' even more enjoyable than the first adventure. It is also a snip at £7.95. I await with eager fingertips.

Another big release for the summer is 'MEXICO '86 A WORLD CUP CARNIVAL'. as you may have guessed, its all about the world cup, with all the groups with their actual correct teams, I hope the computer makes a wise choice and lets Scotland come out tops in Group 7.

Another pending release is'The Graphic Adventure Creator', this could overtake the Quill and Illustrator and make it the most popular ADVENTURE writing system. Incentive, of MOONCRESTA fame are responsible, but I feel the asking price is very,very steep at £22.95, but I can see a lot of imaginative people profiting by it.

More Of Coming Soon

As there are a lot of games being released for summer, here is a continuation of the 'COMING SOON' informants.

Get ready for two arcade releases from Elite, they include 'PAPERBOY' and "GHOSTS AND GOBLINS". In paperboy, you take on the role of a paperboy and you must deliver papers up increasingly difficult streets. You also have a BMX course that you must tackle.

The other release is "GHOSTS AND GOBLINS", as you can probably guess, it has an eerie feel about it. You must do battle with Ghosts, Goblins and other undesirable creatures. If you survive, you must try and carry out your mission objective - to rescue the beautiful princess, I wonder where I have heard that one before ??

Both games are priced at £ 7.95 and should be available pretty soon. I am almost sure that they will be just as successful as Elite's other arcade releases, 'BOMB JACK' and 'COMMANDO', both currently doing well in the Boots Chart.

Get ready for a string of top value compilation tapes. These include "THEY SOLD A MILLION II", with four games from OCEAN , PSION , U.S. GOLD , ULTIMATE. The titles are "MATCH DAY", MATCH POINT", "KNIGHTLORE" , and "BRUCE LEE".

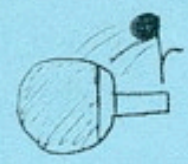
Another compilation is "OFF THE HOOK", which all money made will be going to the Prince's Trust in aid of Drug REHABILITATION.

Donations of games have been given by ACTIVISION?BEYON?ELITE? GARGOYLE , Gremlin Graphics, INCENTIVE, MELBOURNE HOUSE, OCEAN , PSION , and U.S. GOLD.

AT £9.95 its well worth it

PING PONG

Prodocer : Imagine
Price : £7.95

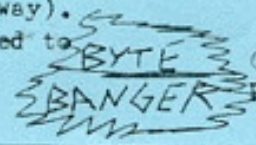


Ping Pong is taken from the Kunami arcade machine and is converted very well with not much missed out.

In the game, which I have heard is like table tennis but I cannot see any difference. You challenge an easy level 1 bat,(because that is all you see as a whole body would cause too many problems for the poor, discerning player and programmer)

You start off at level one, which is an easy level once you learn to play the game, after that, you must work your way up another four harder levels, until you get to challenge level five, which in my view, plays like an oriental and makes the ball travel at the speed of light,(well, it seems like that anyway).

A slight difference, you do not need to move your bat-all you need to do is control your shot and direction.



GAME OF THE MONTH

CRITICISM

The Ping Pong loading screen was not up to normal impecable standards, but all was soon forgiven when I heard the pure amazing title tune. No cover versions like Mikie'S "HARD DAYS NIGHT", but a stunning score of music that sound almost 3 channel.

Enough about the tunes and jingles- onto the game. There are five different levels with one being the easiest.

I got slightly annoyed when the compute played a shot that is impossible to hit, but this makes the game more interesting

A few bugs crept in, like if you press a key when a short jingle is playing, the game will freeze and it will not clear until you pull the plug.

This game makes a lot of fun and excitement which can keep you at the game for hours on end.

RATINGS

GRAPHICS 88 % VALUE 95 %
PLYABILITY 92 % ADDICTIVENESS 96 %
OVERALL 94 %

INTRODUCING .....

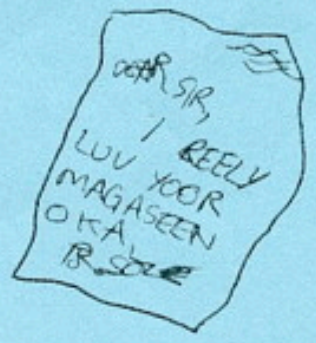
Your Page

This is the part of the magazine that you can take an active part in.

You may want to write in on subjects that concern the computer industry, articles written by you and you think that that they are good enough to be printed in the magazine.

Or maybe you think there is something you know, that other people might be interested in.

Absolutely anything at all, for



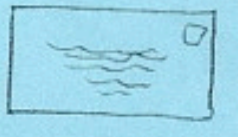
DO you have a natural talent for writing witty, topical letters or are you a budding Picasso, just waiting to liven up the pages with little drawings or doodlings ?

WE WANT TO HERE FROM YOU !!

If you can help, then write to the adress below:-

THE SPECTRUM BYTE,
36 FORTH ROAD,
TORRANCE,
G64 4BA

Or alternatively, hand it in to myself, Colin Hardie, or to James Donaldson.



SWAP SHOP

THIS is the part of the magazine where you can trade in a game that you are fed up with and get a different one that sounds more interesting.

I am interested to see how popular this one will be because there is a lot of potential swapping that could be done !!

Just hand myself, (Colin Hardie) a piece of paper set out like the following.

EXAMPLE.

NAME: JOHN SMITH
OFFERS: "MAKE-A-CHIP"
WANTS : "DECATHLON"

CLASS : ORIGINAL / COPY.

N.B. THE STAFF WILL TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR COPIED GAMES IN SWAP-SHOP.
THIS PAGE [redacted] ONLY CONVEYS WHAT THE READERS WANT TO SWAP. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT LIABLE .

THE PHONE NUMBERS

OCEAN 061 832 6633	GARGOYLE GAMES 0384 237222	MIRRORSOFT 01 377 4644
ELITE 0922 59165	IMAGINE 061 834 3939	TASKSET 0242 473798
BUBBLEBUS 0732 355962	MELBOURNE HOUSE 01 940 6064	
DOMARK 01 947 5624	GREMLIN 0742 753423	ULTIMATE 0530 411485
MIKRO-GEN 0344 427317	DESIGN DESIGN 061 205 6603	CRL 01 533 2918

)))((()))((()))((()

A BYTE BANGER

BATMAN
Producer : OCEAN
Price : £7.95

"NANANANANA 'BATMAN!'"
Yes, well here comes the caped crusader and he is faced with a bit of a problem.
Robin was servicing the Batmobile when he was kidnapped by the baddies .
Seven vital pieces are lying around the 150 screen Batcave which must be collected to make the Batmobile work.
The only problem being that Batman's powers are very limited. He can only stroll around the caves and thats about it .
To enable Batman to complete his Quest, you must help him collect his four vital pieces of Bat equipment.
These are Batboots, for jumping, Batbag, for carrying objects, Lowgravity belt which stops your speed of descent, and a Batthruster, which gives horizontal direction when falling.

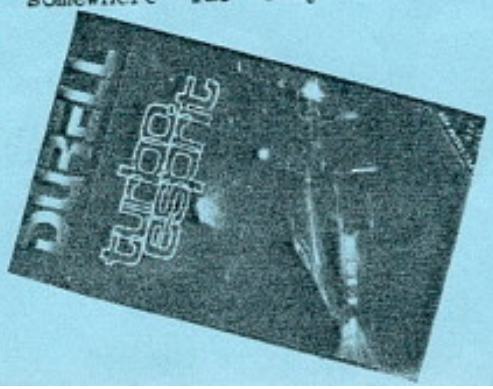
CRITICISM
At first I thought "Here we go, it's another OCEAN game of the film".
By that I meant that Ocean produce film/game products that are usually quite bad.
I am glad to say that I am quite wrong !
This is one of Ocean's better games.
It uses the much-used filmation technique but I always seem to get drawn back to them.
There is a more original plot and some of the special effects are quite funny.
If Batman goes through a period of inactivity, he will eventually cross his arms, tap his feet and stare longingly into your eyes !
A good option on the menu is the sound option, you can have the sound very loud, medium or no noise at all for all those late night sessions you might play!!
All in all, a great game well worth playing that will keep you amused.

RATINGS
GRAPHICS 96% VALUE 91 %
PLAYABILITY 88% ADDICTIVENESS 93%
OVERALL 93%

COMP)))(((QUIZ

1 ,Which character did MATHEW SMITH CREATE ?
2 ,Who is OCEAN'S Public Relations Officer ?
3 ,Which arcade company sold the licensee for COMMANDO to ELITE ?
4 ,Which OCEAN programmer was responsible for both 'MATCH DAY' and 'Batman'
5 ,Why did Elite never bring out Scooby-Doo for the 48 K Spectrum ?
6 ,Who wrote Imagine's PING PONG ?
7 ,How much did Alan Sugar of Amstrad buy Sinclair for ?
8 ,In Durell's COMBAT LYNX , where did Durell get the technical support ?
9 ,Who wrote "TURBO ESPRIT"
10,In which game are you the magic knight and you must escape the castle ?
11,In SWEEVO'S WORLD, how do you kill the 'orrible little girl ?
12,To the nearest hundred, how many screens are there in STARQUAKE ?

You will find the answers somewhere far away in another part of this magazine . SO GET LOOKING !!



The Boots CHART

IN THE CHART NEXT MONTH?

This is the nationally compiled software chart compiled by Boots the chemists .

The chart is analysed by specialists who have all the sales figures from all the stores nationwide.

MIXED CHART

POS.	TITLE.	COMPANY	MACHINE.
1	WAY OF THE TIGER	GREMLIN	~~Spectrum~~
2	URIDIUM	??.	CBM64
3	BOMB JACK	ELITE	Spectrum
4	GREEN BERET	IMAGINE	Spectrum
5	CRASH SMASHES	VARIOUS	Spectrum
6	'V'	OCEAN	Spectrum
7	COMP.HITS 2	VARIOUS	Amstrad
8	HARDBALL	U.S. GOLD	CBM64
9	COMMANDO	ELITE	Spectrum
10	T.S.A.MILL. 2	VARIOUS	CBM64
11	BATMAN	OCEAN	Spectrum
12	RED HAWK	??????	CBM64
13	ZZAP SIZZ.	VARIOUS	CBM64
14	TOMAHAWK	DIGITAL	Spectrum
15	TURBO ESPRIT	DURELL	Spectrum
16	MEXICO '86	U.S. GOLD	CBM64
17	K.FU MASTER	U.S. GOLD	CBM64
18	RAMBO	OCEAN	AMSTRAD
19	QUAZATRON	???????	Spectrum
20	SPINDIZZY	ELEC.DREAMS	AMSTRAD

Spinndizzy (20)

All these games are widely available at every Boots computer stockists. This information was very kindly supplied by Mr C. Failes the computer consultant at 200 Sauchiehall Street , Glasgow. His job is to make sure that you get the best possible service. And at Boots, this is a certainty.

TOMAHAWK (14)

Number 1

INTRODUCING ..... # Your Page

This is the part of the magazine that YOU can take an active part in .

You may want write in on subjects that concern the computer industry or articles that you have written and you think are good enough to be printed in the magazine.

This is the pleasure of producing a letter for this page - you can have instant recognition !!

If you think you have something to write about that may concern or interest other readers then write a letter and send it to me at the following adress.

"THE SPECTRUM BYTE",
336 FORTH ROAD ,
TORRANCE ,
G64 4BA .

Or an easy alternative is to hand in your letter in a sealed envelope to myself-Colin Hardie or toJames Donaldson.

So get these pens working !, I look forward to reading your letters !!!!

HEAVY ON THE MAGICK

PRODUCER : Gargoyle Games
PRICE : £ 9.95

This is some game !
You take on the role of "AXIL the awfully adequate ", as he was known to his friends.
His favourite pastime was Wizard-Baiting and this ended him up in deep trouble because he took the Mick out of THERION, a V.powerful wizard.
, He transported him to Collodons' pile , A dungeon that has only 3 exits your job is to guide Axil to them via the keyboard with command words.
If you are a fighting fantasy fan then this game is for you.

BYTE BANGER

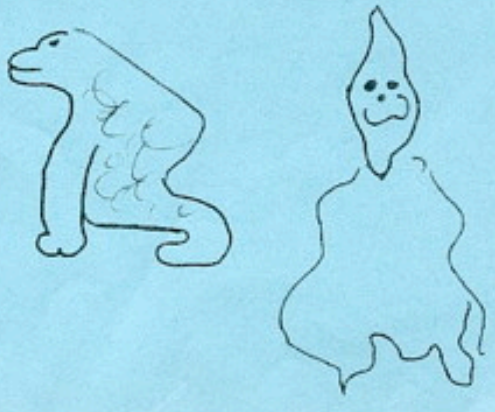
The hero is a 'FAB' 12 characters high and every now and then you can see his cloak flap or something that makes Axil no ordinary static figure
Both the loading screen and tune are also very well done.

Watch out for APEX the ogre !!

RATINGS .

GRAPHICS - 92% VALUE - 90%
PLAYABILITY - 94% ADDICTIVENESS - 91%

OVERALL = 93 %

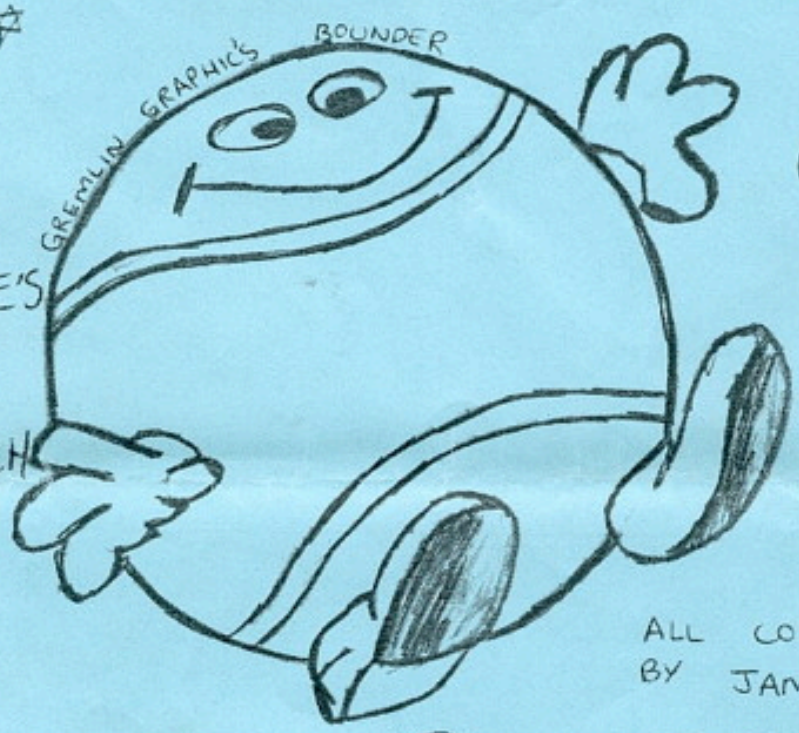


BOUNCE DOWN

AND

JIMCOL PUBLICATION

ALL LITERARY PAGES BY COLIN HARDIE



NEWS

EXCLUSIVE'S AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

MONTHLY SPECTRUM REVIEW

ALL COVERWORK BY JAMES DONALDSON

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A BYTE BANGER

MONTHS ISSUE